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Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are going to collect the usual water-rate ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANAS :—" Presumably so. At present we are awaiting a report from the Revenue officials and it remains to be seen whether there are any other objections."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, the nature of the other kinds of objections?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" There may be other vested interests which may be affected by the proposal which have to be considered."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" If there are no objections, will the Government be pleased to expedite the scheme ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Most certainly, Sir. There is no objection." (Laughter.)

Purchase of machinery and plant for the Mettur Project.

* 1827 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state, with reference to my question No. 1560 of the 28th February 1929, the details of the machinery and plant ordered for the Mettur Project since the date of the report on the Mettur Deputation printed with G.O. No. 2616 I., dated the 19th October 1928, their cost and the firms from which they were ordered ?

A.—The information asked for is given in the statement attached.[a]

Mr. J. A SALDANHA :—" With reference to the appendix printed on page 7, may I know, Sir, whether there is any policy or principle in regard to the purchase of machinery more especially before ordering from firms outside India, whether advertisements are inserted in the Public Press in India ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Notice."

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether tenders were called for before the purchase of the machinery for the Mettur Project ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" With reference to the item 24 in the appendix, may I know whether the Mysore Government manufacture these things or whether it is a second-hand machine which this Government has undertaken to buy from the Mysore Government ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I cannot say anything for certain. I think that they bought it from others."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" May I know whether none of the items in the list is manufactured by Tatas ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know whether the Government have not laid down any principle or practice as how to order, how to advertise and how to call for tenders, etc., in a matter where so many lakhs of rupees are spent ? "

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 709–710 infra.

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The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"I think there are distinct orders in the matter."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"May I know what the orders are?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"May I know, Sir, with reference to items 1 and 2 in the appendix whether the Director-General of Stores, London, has simply to carry out the instructions of this Government as agent or whether he has full discretion to buy as he chooses?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"Notice."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—"May I know whether he has to buy from the cheapest market?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"So far as I know he has to buy in the cheapest market. I cannot give an authoritative answer. If such an answer is asked for, I must ask for notice."

Land Revenue

Failure of crops in Palghat taluk.

*1828 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state, with reference to the answers given to questions Nos. 1377-A and 1377-B, regarding failure of crop in Palghat taluk—

(a) the normal rainfall in Palghat taluk in every month from June to December;

(b) the actual rainfall recorded during the same period in 1928;

(c) whether the supply of water reported as insufficient in the season report for December has affected the second crop; and

(d) whether remission has been granted in the case of lands where the second crop has not been compounded?

A.—(a) & (b) The average rainfall during the months of June to December and the actual rainfall in 1928 during those months, as recorded at the three registering stations of the Palghat taluk, is given in the attached statement.[a]

(c) In a report, dated 30th December 1928, the Collector of Malabar stated that the condition of the standing crop in the Palghat taluk was poor for want of rain.

(d) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to clause (c) of question No. 1377-B.

Jails

Alleged ill-treatment of persons connected with the Koilpatti sedition case.

*1829 Q.—Mr. C. VENKATARANGAM NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Messrs. A. Kuppuswami Mudali, M. S. Subrahmani Ayyar, Nainiyappa Pillai and Dayvanayakayya sentenced in the Koilpatti sedition case were not allowed to take their books and shoes with them;

[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 711 infra.